

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday of Lent, Year C
16 March 2025
Luke 9:28-36

Catechist Background

This Sunday's Gospel tells us of the event known as "The Transfiguration", in which Jesus went up a mountain and was transfigured (transformed) for a short time. Moses and Elijah appear with him, representing the (Jewish) Law and the Prophets, which are the two major sections of the Hebrew Scriptures, thus underlying for Christians the belief that Jesus is the culmination/fulfilment of the Hebrew Scriptures (which we call the Old Testament). Moreover, like Jesus in the desert, both Moses and Elijah had a forty-day period which marked the beginning of their ministries. Chronologically, in Luke's Gospel, this story follows immediately after Jesus' announcement of his Passion and Death; the Transfiguration is a preview of his Resurrection to come.

Jews at the time of Jesus (and still today) sometimes built temporary dwellings for religious reasons, and that might have been what prompted Peter to offer to do so in this Gospel passage. Every year, Jews celebrate *Sukkot*, the Festival of "Booths" or "Tabernacles", and many build shelters to live in for up to seven days. By doing so they remember the years that the people of Israel spent sheltered in tents while crossing the desert from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need a representation of a tree without leaves. You could use a branch potted in the sand from last week, or a large paper outline of a tree taped to the wall. You will also need some leaf shapes – one per child – and some pens or pencils, and some way to fix the leaves to the tree (string, blutack, Sellotape).

We Say Sorry

Leader: You come to us in light, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You bring us out of the shadows, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You teach us to share your love, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

We Pray (1)

God our Father, help us to hear your Son, that we may find our way to you. Amen.

Gospel Introduction

Remind the children that last week we heard about Jesus in some difficult circumstances, being tested while he was in the desert for 40 days. This week we hear about a very different situation.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- This is a very unusual situation!
 - What would you think if you were there with Jesus and his disciples?
 - Would you have known what to say and do?
 - How do you think you would feel to see Jesus looking so stunning? *Happy, scared, excited?*
- The disciples didn't know what to say or do, but they were very happy to be there with Jesus.

- How do you think the disciples remembered this event afterwards?
 - They may have realised they had been shown a bit of what would happen to Jesus.
 - In the following weeks and months there were difficult times ahead for Jesus and the disciples. These times that must have made them worried or sad.
 - When the disciples remembered this event, it might have helped them to stay strong and connected with Jesus.

Response

- Show the children the empty tree. Point out to them if it is potted in the sand from last week.
- Ask them:
 - Imagine you were a very young tree and couldn't remember last year.
 - When you look at trees at this time of year, would it be scary to see they had no leaves?
 - It might seem hopeless, if you didn't know that spring and new leaves would come soon.
 - Just like new life in the spring follows winter, this experience on the mountain reminded the disciples that something more special than they could understand would happen to Jesus.
 - It also reminds us that Jesus has been transformed and gives us new life.
- Give a 'leaf' shape to each child, and encourage them to write their name (or draw themselves) on one side.
- Help them write 'hope' on the other.
- Attach the leaves to the tree using string, blutack or Sellotape, to show that new life comes when we are linked to Jesus.

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting the children to reply, 'I do'.

- Do you believe in God, the almighty Father, who created our wonderful world?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who we should listen to?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, present among us today?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying:

'God in heaven, we know that you are here with us just like you were with the disciples on the mountain, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for people who tell others about you. May they never forget your glory. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for the world, that everyone may know your love. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who are ill. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone we know who is feeling down. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Thank you, Lord, for hearing all our prayers. Please look after all those in need. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.